

Sustainable Travel at Tri Cities Regional Airport

Tri-Cities Regional Airport prioritizes sustainable projects in its operations

Sustainability is gaining importance in the travel industry

The Tri-Cities Regional Airport (TCRA) located in Blountville, Tennessee is incorporating sustainable practices in its daily operations. Operations Manager David Jones said, "It just makes sense dollar-wise to be as sustainable as possible." Customers enjoy the convenience of airline travel but are looking for more ecofriendly choices.

Ongoing projects

Airport staff have been actively participating in meetings and other opportunities to learn more about alternative fuels. In 2009, with the help of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCFC), the airport received a grant in the amount of \$1800 for the retrofit of several pieces of aircraft towing equipment to propane. The airport has also installed LED lighting in the employee parking lot and for the runway landing lights. Other practices in place include an active recycling program for cardboard, paper, e-waste, metals, waste oil and light bulbs.

Future projects and challenges

Prior to the propane project, TCRA had used bio-diesel in some of its heavy equipment but due to fungal growth in storage tanks and a lack of a reliable source, this project was cancelled. The airport is examining the possibility of using electric vehicles provided grant funding is available. Other projects under consideration include expanding the LED lighting into the passenger parking lots as well as runway edge lighting. Additional long range projects include a possible solar farm and waterless urinals.

For more information about Tri-Cities Regional Airport, please visit:
www.triflight.com



Propane powered aircraft

TCRA quick facts

- The airport was originally constructed in 1937 and covered an area of 323 acres.
- TCRA is located in the geographical center of Kingsport, Bristol and Johnson City.
- Presently, TCRA covers an area of 1,225 acres with 89 acres in easements.
- Delta Airlines provides the means for passengers to purchase carbon offsets for their travel from TCRA.
- For additional information about sustainable air travel, please visit: <http://www.ecolife.com/travel/air-travel/guide-to-green-air-travel.html>